NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, March 26, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hacker Lab Sacramento
2533 R Street
Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 514-7044

1. Call to Order
   Welcome from Venue
   N. Lindo
   E. Ullrich

2. Acknowledgment of Tribal Land and Tribal Representative
   A. Bown-Crawford
   K. Gallegos

3. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum
   L. Barcena

4. Approval of Minutes from January 30, 2019 Council Meeting (TAB 13)
   N. Lindo

5. Strategic Framework Overview & Work Session (TAB 15)
   T. Nolfo
   The CAC’s Strategic Framework consultant will provide an overview of the Council and agency’s planning process and lead Council through a planning work session. This item will be introduced by the Strategic Planning Committee.

6. Voting Item: Organizational Development Staff Panel Recommendations (TAB 16)
   A. Kiburi
   Council will vote to approve the panel recommendations and award amounts for the FY 18-19 Organizational Development Grant Program.

7. Public Comment (may be limited to 2 minutes per speaker*)
   N. Lindo
8. Grantee Presentation: 916 Ink
916 Ink is Sacramento’s arts-based creative writing nonprofit that provides workshops for Sacramento area youth, grades 3-12, in order to transform them into confident writers and published authors. I. Hadley

9. Guest Presentation: California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
The Executive Director and Policy Director of the CCSWG will provide an overview of their commission and its efforts including equal pay and STEAM education. K. Harris

S. Tseu

10. Break: Council Members Paperwork

11. Chair’s Report (TAB 18) N. Lindo

12. Director’s Report (TAB 19) A. Bown-Crawford

13. Equity Committee Update (TAB 20) N. Lindo
Brief updates from the equity committee reporting out on recent meetings. K. Gallegos

14. Public Comment (may be limited to 2 minutes per speaker*) N. Lindo

15. Venue Tour: Hacker Lab Sacramento E. Ullrich

16. Legislative Committee Update (TAB 21) N. Lindo
Brief updates from the legislative committee reporting out on recent meetings. J. Devis

17. Discussion Item: Policy Considerations L. Baza
Council will discuss timely program requirement policy considerations. J. Galli

18. Future Agenda Items N. Lindo
Opportunity for all Council members to submit requests for future agenda items.
19. **Adjournment (TAB 22)**

Meetings adjourn in honor of members of the creative community whose lives were recently lost, as acknowledged by the Chair.

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**Notes:**

1. All times indicated and the orders of business are approximate and subject to change.

2. **Any item listed on the Agenda is subject to possible Council action.**

3. The CAC retains the right to convene an advisory committee meeting pursuant to Government Code Sec. 11125 (d).

4. Council meetings are open to the public and are held in barrier-free facilities that are accessible to those with physical disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need additional reasonable accommodations, please make your request no later than five (5) business days before the meeting. Please direct your request to the Administrative Analyst, Lariza Barcena, at (916) 322-6335 or lariza.barcena@arts.ca.gov.

5. Public testimony is time limited. Please make concise remarks. *Members of the public utilizing language translation will be granted additional time as needed.

6. A working lunch will be delivered for the Council Members and staff. No lunch break will be taken.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, January 30, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Garcia Center for the Arts
536 West 11th Street
San Bernardino, CA 92310
(909) 888-6400

PRESENT:

Council Members
Nashormeh Lindo, Chair
Larry Baza, Vice Chair
Juan Devis
Jodie Evans
Donn K. Harris
Kathleen Gallegos
Louise McGuinness

Council Members absent: Jaime Galli

Arts Council Staff
Anne Bown-Crawford, Executive Director
Ayanna Kiburi, Deputy Director
Caitlin Fitzwater, Director of Public Affairs
Shelly Gilbride, Programs Officer
Kristin Margolis, Director of Legislative Affairs
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist
Lariza Barcena, Administrative Analyst

Invited Attendees
Ernest F. Garcia, The Garcia Center for the Arts
Jennifer Kane, Arts Connection
Joseph Lewis, Noah Purifoy Foundation

Other Attendees / Members of the Public
Qathryn Brehm, Downtown Art Walk
Steve Thomas, Arts Connection
Jim Rawitsch, Sam & Alfreda Maloof Foundation
I. Call to Order
   Welcome from the Arts Connection
   Welcome from Garcia Center for the Arts

Chair Lindo calls the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

She thanks and introduces meeting hosts Jennifer Kane, Executive Director of Arts Connection, the CAC’s State-Local Partner of San Bernardino County; and Ernest Garcia of the Garcia Center for the Arts.

Garcia gives a brief history of the center, built in 1932 as part of the Works Progress Administration under Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal. The building was vandalized and sat empty for nearly a decade before being restored and revitalized by San Bernardino Generation Now and other dedicated residents. Garcia thanks the Council for holding their meeting in San Bernardino and in a space so valued by the local community.

Kane thanks the Council and all attendees for coming to San Bernardino. She shows her gratitude for all the State-Local Partners and their shared vision for the arts and expresses her faith in partnership as the means to expand the work of all, and the Council’s presence as a testament to their role in that partnership. She mentions San Bernardino County’s size as the largest in the contiguous states of the U.S., the challenges that come with the cultural and geographic variance within the county, and expresses her appreciation for the local resources of the San Bernardino community, like San
Bernardino Generation Now, San Bernardino Art Association, the San Bernardino Symphony, Inlandia Institute, Cal State San Bernardino, and the City of San Bernardino, that support the work of Arts Connection. Kane tells Council that recent capacity-building efforts have been starting at the local level with the resurgence of downtown San Bernardino and read the new mission statement developed as part of their CAC Organizational Development grant. She invites all in attendance to a post-meeting reception in the center’s gallery co-hosted by the San Bernardino Symphony, the Inlandia Institute, and the Garcia Center. She also mentions the county’s Poetry Out Loud finals taking place the following weekend at the Garcia Center.

II. **Acknowledgment of Tribal Land and Tribal Representative**
Bown-Crawford respectfully acknowledges the meeting taking place on culturally traditional land of Native American tribes and introduces Councilwoman Kathy Gallegos to read the list of local tribes.


III. **Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum**
At 9:23 a.m., Lindo calls for roll. A quorum is established.

The Chair welcomes newest Council member Jodie Evans. Council members introduce and share a brief bit of information about themselves. Evans thanks the Council for their introductions and shares her gratitude for her appointment by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and her excitement to learn from the arts community and Council. She speaks about her commitment to the arts and its alignment to her work as a peace activist.

IV. **Approval of Minutes from December 6 Council Meeting**
The Chair calls for the motion to approve the December 6, 2018 minutes with approved changes. McGuinness moves, Baza seconds.

At 9:29 a.m., Lindo calls for the vote. The motion passes 6-0. Evans abstains.

V. **Chair’s Report**
Lindo reads the Chair’s Update report in full, offering a glimpse of the work in the new year and reflecting on recent events in 2018, such as the Partners and Networks Grantee Meeting in December.

VI. **Director’s Report**
Bown-Crawford provides an overview of her Director’s Report, outlining the work of the Director and CAC staff in the prior two months.
VII. Committee Updates
   a) Equity Committee
   Gallegos provides an overview of the committee’s update, covering the draft equity statement which will be presented to Council at the March 26, 2019 meeting, and the completion of a government race equity training by CAC staff, with an overview of racial equity training or orientation to be offered to Council members as a future agenda item.

   b) Legislative Committee
   Devis presents the Legislative Committee update, mentioning Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposed $10 million permanent increase to the CAC budget, the status of the open position of state poet laureate, and the proposed legislation to create a youth poet laureate position for California.

   Director of Legislative Affairs Kristin Margolis adds that three current gubernatorial appointments are open on the Council. She mentions that Sen. Henry Stern has agreed to author the youth laureate bill on behalf of the Council, and that legislative directors are currently working with the CAC and the Legislative Counsel to analyze the bill proposal.

   Baza asks if the Council could provide any materials about the process of establishing laureate positions that could be shared with San Diego, which currently has no position for an adult or youth laureate. Margolis confirms and mentions the creation of an anthology of laureate poetry that will be developed by the CAC in the coming months.

   Council members Harris, Baza and Lindo all share comments about the effectiveness and enthusiasm behind youth laureates and the poet laureates at both state and local levels. Programs Officer Shelly Gilbride mentions the addition of a new component to the state Poetry Out Loud finals for this year, Poetry Ourselves, which invites original written submissions from county champions. She comments on the addition being a strong complement to the proposed legislation for a state youth laureate and for supporting the voices of young artists and students in California as a whole.

   c) Strategic Planning
   Harris provides the update for the Strategic Planning Committee, informing the Council of the selection for the Creative Strategy Consultant contracted in accordance with state process. The work session for the Council with the consultant will take place at the March meeting.

   Devis enquires about the consultant’s experience as it pertains to the field of arts and culture. Public Affairs Director Caitlin Fitzwater responds that the RFP (Request for Proposal) process looked closely at the approach to the proposed project to both break the mold and consider equity in all areas. The selected consultant does have experience in the arts field, specifically with Arts in Corrections, but the experience in other areas was beneficial when considering where arts and culture intersects with other industries. The strategy for selection was centered upon bringing in new a lens for engaging with the field and extending outside of the usual network of CAC partners to look at the entire ecosystem of arts in California.

VIII. Public Comment
• Michael Alexander, California Arts Advocates
  Alexander expresses his happiness to be in San Bernardino with Jennifer Kane, who is a co-board member of California Arts Advocates/Californians for the Arts. He says the organization is pleased with the proposed $10 million increase to the CAC budget, but they will keep fighting to reach $2 per capita. He reminds Council and attendees that California Arts Advocates will be in Sacramento in April for Arts, Culture and Creativity Month, and hopes to see Council members and CAC staff at the celebration at the Capitol on April 23. He recommends the Council explores the possibility of discretionary grants to support national and international arts gatherings and meetings that come to California. He also asks Council to consider a grant program for touring artists and asks for more advanced notice for Council meetings in order to garner more community attendance.

• Peter Comiskey, Balboa Park Cultural Partnership
  Comiskey represents the California Cultural Districts coalition, formed by 13 out of the 14 designated state cultural districts, to unify and advance advocacy in arts and culture. He talks about the great deal of enthusiasm within and about the California Cultural Districts program, and a real desire to understand what comes next, what it means to be designated, what is the potential and the opportunities. He is looking forward to the CAC’s program evaluation results, around which the coalition can unify and strategize.

• Andrew K. Thompson, The Little Gallery of San Bernardino
  Thompson tells Council that the first Breezeway Artwalk was held on January 26, developed in partnership with San Bernardino Generation Now, Arts Connection, and Realicore. Hundreds of people were in attendance and HBO was present. Thompson says San Bernardino is in the process of bringing arts and culture back to downtown.

• Ana Cervantes, San Bernardino Generation Now
  Cervantes welcomes Council and thanks Ernie and Dottie Garcia for hosting the event. Cervantes asks Council for an expansion of the Artists in Communities, State-Local partners, and Artists in Schools grant programs to bridge the gap between classrooms and communities. She echoes Thompson’s enthusiasm about the Breezeway Artwalk event, with lots of local artists, businesses, restaurants, and musicians who participated. She shares a testimony from a local artist who participated in the event, thanking all who made the event possible and looking forward to more likeminded events. Cervantes tells Council and attendees that San Bernardino Generation Now is volunteer-driven, and more willing volunteers can create more vibrant change. She thanks Council for their work.

• Saniyyah Thomas, Community Organizer Enthusiast – submitted as a written comment
  Hello Council!

  Welcome to San Bernardino and the Garcia Center of the Arts! We are happy to have you! I want to take this opportunity to share with you my perspective of the importance of the arts and cultural programming in our city and the successful collaborations that have happened. I believe it is safe to say that San Bernardino is for the arts! And continued funding and programming are vital to the resurgence of cultural revitalization that the city is in much need of your support, as I
am sure and hopeful many others will share with you today.

San Bernardino community members and organizers have, for some time, realized the true potential that the arts contribute to our community. The center that you are sitting in today was a neglected and abandoned building owned by the city and someone had the vision to restore this building and dedicate it to the community as arts and cultural community center. That someone is Ernie Garcia. For a year (more or less) Ernie inspired and recruited volunteers to paint, landscape, and refurbish the center. In 2013, after the bankruptcy of the city, a grassroots group called San Bernardino Generation Now (SBGN) made it their calling and civic duty to take a “hands-on” approach to tackle civic engagement and revitalize the arts and culture in the city through various and mostly self-funded events and programs. Arts Connection’s ED, Jennifer Kane, business partners and owners of the Little Gallery of San Bernardino (Andrew Thompson and Eric Servin), local developer (David Friedman), SBGN member and community resident (Ana Cervantez), and finally myself (Saniyyah Thomas), all came together and applied/submitted for the “Creative Communities Grant” earlier this month for the Breezeway Arts Block (BAB) Project. This grant will help us implement arts-improvement projects, artists in business training, BAB pop up stores, and repurposing of other vacant storefronts in the downtown San Bernardino area.

So you see, the people here in San Bernardino are ready and eager for change and are willingly to collectively collaborate to make it happen! And we would love your continued collaboration and (CAC’s) support, to further facilitate our cause with your direct involvement in revitalizing our city.

Thank you! And Be Blessed!

- Craig Rosen, Ventura County Arts Council

Craig thanks the Council and CAC staff for their work. He asks Council to explore ways that State-Local Partners program can be tailored to help smaller arts partners who need a different or increased level of assistance. He references the change to independent contractor law and lack of support from local government as reasons. Rosa offers to be a willing partner in that work to share knowledge and bolster support among smaller arts councils. He also asks for some Professional Development funds to be earmarked for these smaller arts partners in need of education on how to succeed and increase capacity.

- Preston Arrow-weed, Ah-Mut Pipa Foundation

Arrow-weed thanks Council member Gallegos for the invitation to the meeting, and thanks Bown-Crawford for her welcome. He offers a welcome from his tribes, the Kamya and Quechan. He tells Council about his foundation, the Ah-Mut Pipa Foundation. The Ah-Mut Pipa Foundation was founded in 1996 by five individuals who were concerned about the preservation of Native American culture and art. The Foundation is located on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, a remnant of the ancestral home of the Quechan people. The Foundation is registered as a California Public Benefit non-profit corporation, and is considered as such to be exempt from taxes under California law. Also, the Foundation is
recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit entity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The mission of the Ah-Mut Pipa Foundation is to educate the Quechan community, the Tribes of California, and the general public, in order to increase understanding of Native American ethnohistory, culture, and art. The Foundation will maintain facilities for research, publication, instruction, performance art, film and television production. It is the intention of the Foundation to promote the history and culture of Native California through the voices of the people themselves, sharing Native American methods of storytelling and research that will enrich the lives of all people.

- **Bill Green, Highway 62 Art Tours**
  Green introduces himself as the new director for Highway 62 art tours. He tells Council about their open studios event, slated to feature over 200 artists in 2019. He stresses the importance of these tours as a source of income for working artists. Over 10,000 visitors coming from the L.A. and San Diego area support both tourism and the art. His organization is working to involve with and help the community through the arts.

- **David Friedman, local business owner**
  Friedman thanks Council for meeting in San Bernardino. He tells Council about his real-estate work and renting to The Little Gallery of San Bernardino. He says that San Bernardino has a new young voice that is raising up the culture of San Bernardino and encourages Council to keep paying attention to their efforts.

- **Jim Tickemyer, City of San Bernardino**
  Tickemyer introduces himself as the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services for the City of San Bernardino and staff liaison for the Arts and Historical Preservation Commission. He thanks Jennifer Kane and Arts Connection for presenting the opportunity for the Creative California Communities grant. He tells Council that it generated a lot of excitement in the community, and that city council voted unanimously to provide the cash and in-kind match. He reiterates San Bernardino’s commitment to restoring arts and culture within the community.

- **Barbara Babcock**
  Babcock speaks briefly about her work in Nigeria at Babcock University. She mentions the San Bernardino Arts Fest, a free one-day event coming up on Saturday, March 16. Vendors can get a one-day business license for $12. She thanks Council for coming to San Bernardino and asks for their help to continue the change taking place.

**IX. Committee Updates**

a) **Programs Allocation Committee**
McGuinness informs Council that their committee update, which consists of the recommended program allocation for the Professional Development grant program, will be addressed by Shelly Gilbride during Item 11 on the agenda.
b) **Programs Policy Committee**

Baza offers a general background on **Item 12**, the California Emerging Arts Leaders of Color Fellowship Program – Administering Organization Grant Guidelines, to be voted on later in the meeting. He talks about the proposed program originating from outreach from the James Irvine Foundation, who wished to partner with the CAC to utilize the last of their designated arts funding. $965,000—more than was originally proposed, will be provided by Irvine and combined with a $350,000 contribution from the CAC to develop the California Emerging Arts Leaders Fellowship Program, including program evaluation. The basic premise of the new program is to address and ensure programs are accessible to all of California’s communities. He mentions the CAC’s high reputation among state agencies for its commitment to inclusivity regarding the diversity of California. The grant will consist of a two-part application process to determine the selection of the Administering Organization: a letter of intent, followed by a full-blown proposal. A panel will review and make recommendations to Council, with one organization selected to be funded for the creation and administration of the fellowship program. He comments on how no such program existed during his career as an arts administrator, and he is excited to offer such an opportunity to those currently getting their start in the field.

c) **Innovations and Aspirations Committee**

Lindo informs that both members designated to the Innovations and Aspirations Committee, Phoebe Beasley and Steve Oliver, have completed their terms on the Council. She provides an overview of the status of the committee’s work prior to their departure, reminding Council of their work and robust discussion at the September 13, 2018 meeting in Burbank, CA to determine how best to utilize the FY18-19 one-time funding to be used over a period of three years. The discussion resulted in narrowing down the Council’s interest to the categories of art and health and art and technology, spawning the creation of a new program tentatively named Innovation & Demonstration grant program, for which the Council will review guidelines later this year. She adds that new committee members will be appointed at the next meeting.

At 11:00 a.m., a break was taken.

X. **Grant Presentation: Noah Purifoy Foundation**

At 11:27 a.m., the Chair calls the meeting to order.

Lindo introduces a grantee presentation from the Noah Purifoy Foundation and share the organization’s mission to preserve and maintain the site Noah Purifoy developed in Joshua Tree, California, as a permanent cultural center and sculpture park open to the public. Purifoy was also a founding member of the California Arts Council.

Gilbride introduces foundation president Joseph Lewis. She talks about their work as a grantee as part of the California Arts Council’s expansion of its arts education grant program to include Arts Education Exposure to fund field trips to site-specific arts experiences for students.

Lewis provides an overview of the foundation’s history and mission, formed in 1998 by Sue Welsh and Noah Purifoy. The site features over 90 outdoor desert sculptures.
The foundation has developed educational programs to introduce Noah Purifoy’s underrepresented work to the public and the academic and historical canon.

He shares some information on the life of assemblage sculptor Noah Purifoy, born in Alabama in 1917 at the height of Jim Crow, college-educated in industrial arts, and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. As an artist, Purifoy was most interested in creative process.

Lewis discusses the concept behind the foundation’s urban initiative to talk about that creative process to young people from underserved communities. Youth are brought from Markham Middle School in the inner city out to the site, have a tour led by one of the trustees, and then tour Joshua Tree National Park. The foundation has developed a curriculum that is covered with the students at their schools prior to their trip, going over the creative process, the artist, and some historical background and vocabulary before boarding the bus to travel to the site. Lewis adds that the majority of young people on the tours have never been outside of their South Central Los Angeles neighborhood. The foundation conducts a follow-up with teachers and kids in the class, partially as an assessment to better the program for future field trips. The foundation is hoping to print its curriculum and hire a teacher to coordinate with and expand to other schools. The organization is volunteer based and has 90 percent involvement by trustees on school visits. Lewis adds that the program fits perfectly with Purifoy’s legacy and belief in the power of art.

Harris enquires about any research into Purifoy’s collaborative work with the California Arts Council and the foundation during its beginnings. Lewis responds that he is planning to research archived notes from the Council to learn more about it.

Gallegos asks about additional grants or funding. Lewis says the CAC’s Arts Education Exposure grant is the foundation’s first; it has primarily relied upon the trustees for funding, and donations, which have increased due to more frequent visits in recent years.

McGuiness asks about the possibility of increasing the volume of trips annually. Lewis says hiring a coordinator would aid in that being a possibility, but it’s a funding and capacity issue.

Lindo asks about the follow-up activity for students that visit. Lewis mentions the program provided to the teacher for both before and after the trip.

Baza asks if there was a catalog for Purifoy’s show at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Lewis confirms that there was; Devis mentions an Artbound video on the work from KCET.

Council thanks Lewis for his presentation and Lindo shares her delight to see the foundation carrying on the legacy and work of Noah Purifoy.
XI. Voting Item: Professional Development Staff Panel Recommendations

ACTION ITEM: At 12:06 p.m., the Chair calls for the motion to approve the panel recommendations and awards amounts for the FY 18-19 Professional Development Grant Program.

Harris moves; McGuinness seconds.

Gilbride introduces the recommended allocations for the Professional Development program. She reminds Council that this is their first allocation for FY18-19; most voting items will be at the May 22, 2019 meeting, with the exception of this and Organizational Development programs, which will be voted on during the March 26, 2019 Council meeting, and Statewide and Regional Networks and State-Local Partners in June 25, 2019. The PD grants are smaller, more immediate grant programs with grant activity periods that begin sooner. She also reminds that these programs are ranked on a fund/not fund ranking scale.

Kiburi talks about serving on the staff review panel as representative, commenting that it is a wonderful opportunity for CAC staff to learn and participate. She encourages Council to sit in to learn about panel process if possible and reminds the public that it is also a public process. She tells Council that most applications for the Professional Development program were requests to send a member of the staff to a conference, but some were looking to provide training on diversity and equity and justified their reasoning to build capacity in their organization around those issues. Kiburi adds that there may be some confusion in the field between the Professional Development and Organizational Development programs and suggests some work from the Council to incorporate that into their conversation about the various grant program categories.

Gallegos enquires about some funded grants being less than requested.

Kiburi and Gilbride reply that rather than not funding requests with ineligible costs in the budget, such as food and staff time, they instead reduced the awards by that portion within their application. The ineligible expenses are indicated in red within their documents.

Council discusses potential issues with the program to be considered in the future: ambiguity and confusion in relation to the Organizational Development program, the maximum award amount being too small, and the problematic timeframe of a long state grant process for a shorter and more immediate grant activity period.

Gilbride reminds that there is a policy discussion after every panel, meant to inform the staff about what they see as potential improvements. Bown-Crawford speaks to the need for the upcoming program evaluation to help identify and resolve issues. Kiburi, Gilbride, and Lindo attest to the program’s value as accessible and helpful to smaller organizations as compared to larger CAC grants.

Evans asks about any report or space to share feedback from the organization as a benefit to the larger arts and culture community.
Gilbride mentions the final reports required as part of the program, and that they are currently internal. She adds that Council may want to consider a way to make that or similar information public in the future. Kiburi suggests making that a future agenda item.

Lindo calls for the vote at 12:09 p.m. The motion passes unanimously, 7-0.

**XII. Voting Item: California Emerging Arts Managers of Color Fellowship Program: Administering Organization Grant Guidelines**

ACTION ITEM: At 12:11 p.m., Lindo calls for the motion to give staff the authority to make revisions, fine tune and publish the pilot fellowship grant program Administering Organization guidelines.

Gallegos moves; Evans seconds.

Discussion:

Baza reads the Administering Organization Grant Guidelines for the California Emerging Arts Managers of Color Fellowship Program in their entirety.

Devis asks about the definition of a person of color. Gilbride responds that CAC staff will work with the Administering Organization to develop guidance around that, but likely will ask applicants to self-identify.

Baza and Bown-Crawford explain the distinctive structure of this fellowship program in that it will not be directly administered by the CAC. Gilbride reminds that we do have precedence in partnerships of this nature, referencing the Council’s partnership with the National Arts and Disability Center to administer the Arts & Accessibility program and with the Alliance for California Traditional Arts to administer the professional development activities for the Cultural Pathways program.

Evans stresses the importance to see language in the guidelines that ensures the Administering Organization is representative of the work they will be doing. Kiburi responds that research needs to be done in terms of the legalities of that language surrounding that as a state entity.

Evans expresses concern about the distribution of funds, with more allocated to the Administering Organization and host organizations collectively than to the fellows. She suggests a reduction to the administration to shift that balance and allow two more fellows, as well as a potential cap for the organization stipend when their budget is over a certain amount.

Gilbride clarifies that the host organization stipend is meant for covering things like health insurance for the fellow, with the understanding that organizations will take on costs by hosting a fellow. She adds that the other concern was to ensure that the burden does not fall to the fellow to educate the host organization about cultural equity, that the Administering Organization would be responsible for the
education of the host organizations. The CAC also wants to make sure the host organizations have the capacity in cultural equity and financial capacity to take on the program. She also adds that the grant award for the Administering Organization will be a two-year contract, from development to execution.

Further discussion from the Council results in modifications to the guidelines: adding more flexibility into the funding section at the top of page 6 with the intention to support as many fellows as possible; approximate breakdowns and clarification about what regranting to the organizations is meant to cover (health insurance, capacity building, etc.); including a section in both qualifications and questions to assess how an application demonstrates representation in leadership and key personnel; and adding a DataArts report as a requirement of the second stage of the application process.

At 1:20 p.m., the motion is revised to the following: “To give staff the authority to make revisions outlined by the Council at the January 30 meeting, fine tune and publish the pilot fellowship grant program Administering Organization guidelines.” McGuinness moves; Devis seconds.

At 1:22, the Chair calls for the vote. The motion carries 7-0.

XIII. **Report of HMA Evaluation for Reentry Through the Arts**

Gilbride provides an update of the evaluation of the Reentry Through the Arts (RTA) program. She tells Council that the program evaluation began in conjunction with the first cohort of Reentry Through the Arts grantees in FY16-17. The contract for the evaluation was given to Health Management Associates (HMA) Community Initiatives Division through an RFP process. The organization is a social services evaluator, experts in field of evaluation in terms of corrections and restorative justice and reentry. Gilbride meets with the organization on a monthly basis to weigh in on the process. The evaluation plan provided is very detailed and includes a mixed methodology approach, a shared metric assessment, and three different surveys deployed to all RTA grantees. HMA also met with and workedshopped with grantees to assess their capacity to assess their ability to implement evaluation tools get their input. HMA has just completed collecting their first round of data, which will be presented to the Council in an upcoming meeting. HMA will be working through September to develop and finish a final evaluation. Tools are available in Spanish and English.

Gallegos inquires as to whether all RTA grantees are part of the study.

Gilbride responds that the first cohort of grantees, FY16-17 grantees that had a two-year program, are all a part of the program. The two-year activity period was established in order to do the evaluation. The CAC staff is considering deploying some of the evaluation tools developed with interested FY17-18 grantees to build internal capacity.

XIV. **Voting Item: Council Bylaws**

McGuinness provides an overview of the changes to the bylaws. Harris adds that the language was simplified and clarified, removing any inconsistencies. Any content that was more procedural in nature was removed.
ACTION ITEM: At 1:37 p.m., Lindo calls for the motion to approve the proposed changes and updates to the Council Bylaws.

Baza moves; Devis seconds.

Discussion:

Gallegos asks for a correction on page 2 to change “Director of the Council” to “Director of the agency.” She enquires about the terms of appointment outlined in the bylaws, a combination of four-, three-, and two-year appointments.

Margolis responds that it has been brought to the past administration and new administration that the law for the Council for appointment terms has not been adhered to in recent years. The Governor’s office and the Legislature are making efforts to get on top of the appointment specifics. She adds that the revised bylaws will be shared with the Governor’s office for any possible input.

Lindo asks about oversight and evaluation from the Governor’s office.

Margolis responds that she and Bown-Crawford report to representatives in the Governor’s office, supplying reports of the CAC’s proposed legislation and work. In terms of receiving feedback, she suggests posing that question to the new administration, as well as including the Chair’s Report among what is provided to the Governor’s office.

Lindo asks about keeping the Special Liaison Committee, that interfaces with the Governor’s Office. Margolis recommends keeping it; that someone on the Council either has or can develop a connection with the new administration.

At 2:01 p.m., the motion is revised to the following: “To approve the proposed changes, updates, and amendments to the Council Bylaws.” McGuinness moves; Harris seconds.

The Chair calls for vote. The motion passes 7-0.

At 2:02 p.m., a break was taken.

XV. Partner & Networks Grantee Meeting Report

At 2:15 p.m., the Chair calls the meeting to order.

Bown-Crawford gives an introduction about the event, commenting on the joint efforts of the CAC staff, the field, and feedback from arts partner round tables to develop the two-day program. The meeting was the first time convening our State-Local Partners (SLPs) and Statewide and Regional Networks (SRNs) grantees in 16 years. She introduces Fitzwater to go over more details.
Fitzwater explains that the two-day convening of SLPs and SRNs was no cost to attendees, with a paid travel stipend for one staff member of each organization. Up to three staff members per organization were allowed to attend; 150 people participated. Over two-days, there were more than 10 presenters, with their bios outlined for Council in the meeting agenda provided.

The meeting had a thread of equity through the programming, intentionally taking some out of their comfort zone and introducing new concepts. Topics included honoring native lands and communities, transforming organizational culture, implicit bias, new contractor law, community trauma/trauma-informed practices, and the OF/BY/FOR/ALL framework.

Attendees also broke out into groups categorized as Statewide Networks, Regional Networks, suburban/urban State Local-Partners, and rural State Local Partners to brainstorm common challenges, needs, network and collaboration opportunities, and needs of the CAC.

She adds that the meeting was incredibly cost-effective and that the location at the Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, that met state rates, in conjunction with the strong branding and visuals developed by the CAC established a high-quality atmosphere for attendees.

The meeting resulted in learnings to inform future convenings schedules and topics, strengthen and foster dialogue with and among these groups, bolster education and resource sharing. Staff is discussing the capacity to put together future convenings every two to three years.

Fitzwater thanks the Council members that attended the Partners & Networks Grantee Meeting.

Devis asks about the possibility being considered by Council of increasing support for State-Local Partners. Fitzwater responds that State-Local Partners do need more support, but how much and what kind can vary greatly from organization to organization depending on their specific circumstances—location, support from local entities, organizational history, leadership, etc.

Bown-Crawford talks about the CAC staff’s beginning conversations with the Rural County Representatives of California to shore up support for smaller, rural State-Local Partners.

Gilbride adds that the new SLP application will ask about funding sources to get the data needed to understand who needs what kind of support. The guidelines also for the first time ask organizations to delineate the type of activities they are involved with in a quantitative manner.

XVI. **Voting Item: Panel Pool Approval**

**ACTION ITEM:** At 2:50 p.m., Lindo calls for the motion to approve the pool of prospective peer review panelists who may be called upon to serve in 2019 or 2020.

Gallegos moves; Baza seconds.

Gilbride reminds Council that they already approved a panel pool of 495 applicants at the December meeting. The list being approved at this meeting is the additional group of applicants who applied.
between November 15 and January 15. She adds that this is the final pool approved to be selected specifically for FY18-19 panels, although the application process will now remain open year-round at the request of Council.

At 2:51 p.m., the Chair calls for the vote. The motion passes 7-0.

XVII. Presentation: CAC Budget Overview
Kiburi provides a breakdown of the FY18-19 CAC budget per the request of Council:

The FY18-19 Governor’s Budget totals $36,677,000, which includes the General Fund allocation ($24,800,00), the Arts license plate ($2,245,000), the Federal Trust Fund ($1,185,000), and Reimbursements ($8,197,000), and the Keep Arts in Schools Fund ($250,000). The Reimbursements total includes the $8 million allocated for the Arts in Corrections program.

She explains the details surrounding the $8.8 million one-time funding allocated for FY18-19, which include a provision to expend those funds over three years (2018-2021); and a provision to request moving up to 5 percent of the funds ($440,000) to fund CAC Operations, a portion of which will be used for overall programs evaluation, and a portion going to new staff positions.

She illustrates the breakdown of the budget to Operations ($12,262,000), including $8 million for Arts in Corrections programming, and Grants ($24,415,000).

Kiburi reminds Council of their vote in September 2018 to invest $350,000 of the one-time funding to create and implement the California Emerging Arts of Leaders of Color Fellowship Program, co-funded by the James Irvine Foundation. Council also voted to invest $1.6 million to support innovative grants addressing the arts in relation to health and well-being, and technology, and to leave $6.4 million unencumbered to be used in the next two fiscal years at the discretion of the Council.

Devis asks about the proposed total budget for FY19-20. Kiburi responds that $26 million is proposed by Governor Newsom from the state general fund, which includes a $10 million permanent increase.

McGuinness inquires as to whether the grant cycle and the budget year are now in sync. Kiburi responds that alignment is in process but will not sync up until 2021.

Gilbride lets Council know that a lot of consideration and assessment for future Council decisions can be done prior to the completion of the program evaluation, like grant amounts and program structure. Staff can provide data points to Council to aid in their work.

Kiburi adds that the strategic visioning happening soon could be helpful for establishing a methodology as a guide for Council decision making.

Lindo asks about the CAC’s ranking nationally in terms of funding per capita.
Fitzwater responds that we moved from 38 to 28 with the one-time funding.

XVIII. **Presentation: Government Alliance on Race Equity**
Kiburi provides a general overview of the training provided to the CAC as part of the Capitol Cohort of 19 state departments and agencies participating in the Government Alliance on Race Equity. Kiburi gives credit to the relationship with the Department of Public Health Office of Health Equity for informing the CAC staff about the opportunity and says that the CAC is proud to be a part of the pilot program, the first state-level cohort for GARE nationally.

The premise of GARE is to impress upon state agencies that provide services to serve the people of California equitably, to understand who is being served, and that the service is of, by, and for the whole of the state’s population. Statistics show that the state’s current programs and services are more equipped to serve white residents than people of color. GARE puts the focus on race and ethnicity with those attributes serving as the No. 1 determining factor for success and opportunity.

Training and lectures included equity in state government as it relates to Prop. 209, community trauma, inclusion and bridging, implicit and unconscious bias, and more.

The yearlong cohort training resulted in the development of a racial equity plan for the CAC agency; the second year of the training will be focused on refining and implementing the plan at various levels of the agency: workforce development, contracts and procurement, training, onboarding staff, engaging the executive staff. Kiburi says there are opportunities for sharing the learnings with Council and references the Equity Committee’s suggestion to have Council undergo some of the elements of the GARE training.

Kiburi tells Council that the training has already informed changes into work across the agency, offering contracting and the grantmaking process, as examples.

XIX. **Public Comment**
- Jim Rawitsch, Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts
  Rawitsch thanks the Council for coming to San Bernardino County. He tells Council their work is appreciated and important to the artists and art institutions and communities of California. He speaks on behalf of grantmaking being more representative of the geographic diversity of the state.

- Connie Ransom, Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts
  Ransom thanks the CAC for her artist residency in the schools in 1985 in downtown Riverside. She tells Council she was also a participant in a choral leadership program in 2001 sponsored by Riverside and San Bernardino Art Foundations, funded with money from the CAC to promote leadership in the arts. She has been a volunteer and board member at the Maloof Foundation for seven years and participated in leadership for the Culver Center for the Arts in Riverside largely due to that program. She thanks Council for their good work and reiterates the need to be more geographically diverse in its grant programs.

- Jennifer Kane, Arts Connection
Kane makes a suggestion after listening to all of the meeting’s topics to potentially utilize Organizational Development as a mechanism to offer trainings similar to GARE to the State-Local Partner and Statewide and Regional Network grantees, in order to have consistency in understanding of ideas and how the organizations are governed. She also expresses the difficulty around offering data points for rural communities as historically marginalized with regarding to the Local Impact grant. She asks Council for guidelines for applicants struggling with that aspect.

- Mark Chavez, Media Art Nexus
  Chavez is an artist in residence at UCLA under Victoria Vesna at the Art Sci Center. He is currently interested in STEAM-based artworks and projects and wants to bring to northeastern L.A. He is interested in finding funding for arts and startups, or industry introductions to help make those projects happen.

- Andres Garcia, United Voices of Pomona, Project Fighting Chance
  Garcia is a native San Bernardino resident. He thanks Council for holding their meeting at the Garcia Arts Center. He tells Council about his work in connection with Jennifer Kane and Arts Connection, as well as Generation Now and United Voices of Pomona. He expresses his hope for cities like San Bernardino to regain their strength as cultural and economic strongholds in the Inland Empire.

- Dorothy Garcia, San Bernardino Arts & Historical Preservation Commission
  Garcia introduces herself to Council as the chair for the Arts & Historical Preservation Commission for the City of San Bernardino. It is a new commission, formed from former Fine Arts Commission and the Historical Preservation Commission; they are currently determining their priorities. She thanks the Council for being in San Bernardino and tells them the San Bernardino community is growing in its support for the arts.

**XX. Future Agenda Items**
Lindo mentions items already included as future agenda items, FY 19-20 Professional Development, budget allocation, community trauma and racial equity training, new Council member training, Bagley-Keene and Council decorum, public art, individual artist fellowships, touring grant program, STEAM vs STEM, emergency response funding mechanism, and policy development for grantee mergers. Kiburi specifically mentions the Council-approved policy about not changing fiscal sponsors as something to consider when discussing procedure for organizational mergers. Devis suggests an addition about discussing the upcoming grant programs evaluation. Lindo agrees and encourages Council to send along any other suggestions for future items via email in the interest of time.

**XXI. Adjournment**
Before adjourning, Lindo closes the meeting by reading a list of all artists and cultural workers who were honored during 2018 Council meetings, adding additional names:

- Ali Youssefi
- Dana Harrison
- Katherine Westphal
- Marie Johnson Calloway
- Nancy McFadden
- Laura Aguilar
- René Yañez
- Rosalie Portillo
• Aretha Franklin
• Randy Weston
• Wanda Redman-Eklund
• Francelle Phillips
• Victims and survivors of the fires in Butte, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Shasta counties
• Suno Osterweis
• Nancy Wilson
• Penny Marshall
• Stan Lee
• Steve Ditko

• Marie Severin
• Mort Walker
• Hugh Masekela
• Winnie Mandela
• Edwin Hawkins
• Ursula Leguin
• Morgana King
• Larry Harvey
• Elizabeth Sung
• Olivia Coles
• Vic Damone
• Reg. E. Cathey
• John Mahoney
• Dennis Edwards

• Bug Lucky
• Givenchy
• Robert Indiana
• Burt Reynolds
• Otis Rush
• Audrey Wells
• Vanessa Marquez
• Neil Simon
• Roy Hargrove
• Jerry Maren
• James Ingram
• Ntozake Shange

The Council adjourns at 3:57 p.m.
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To: Council Members  
From: Jaime Galli and Donn Harris, Strategic Planning Committee  
Date: March 26, 2019  
Re: Strategic Framework Overview & Council Work Session

Recap of Strategic Framework Project

The CAC has contracted with Nolfo Consulting, Inc. to lead the Council and agency’s Strategic Framework project, through the state RFP contracting process administered by staff. The project summary includes:

With this project, the CAC aims to “break the mold” for strategic planning and develop a new vision, values, and strategic framework that are forward-thinking, bold, innovative and dynamic, addressing equity in all areas. The project will also result in brand identity and messaging that are reflective of the CAC’s new strategic focus. The framework will be a clear guide for choosing current and future courses of action, priorities, and policies for the CAC. The CAC includes both appointed Council Members and the state agency staff.

Our committee met with consultant Tamu Nolfo, Ph.D. on March 4, 2019 for a two-hour kick-off meeting. We are excited to begin our planning process. Dr. Nolfo has been contracted for an innovative and equitable approach to the project, beginning with conducting equitable methods for gathering research and input. Our committee will continue to meet with Dr. Nolfo monthly and will provide updates and/or recommendations to Council at each of our meetings this year. We expect the Council will vote to adopt a new Strategic Framework at our January 2020 meeting.

March 26th Work Session

Consultant Tamu Nolfo will lead a two-hour agenda item at our meeting on March 26, 2019. Dr. Nolfo will walk Council through an overview of the Strategic Framework project phases, timeline, research plan, input methods, as included in her contract with the CAC. Dr. Nolfo will also lead Council in a discussion based on the following guiding questions. We respectfully ask that Council prepare to respond to the following questions at our meeting:

- What has been your experience with strategic plans and the planning process?  
- To what extent have strategic plans (for CAC or other projects) met or fallen short of your needs?  
- What are the kinds of decisions that you make on the Council that would benefit the most from an updated strategic framework?  
- What other areas of the Council’s functioning would you like to have clarified?  
- Five years from now, what would you like to look back and see that the Council had accomplished?
Consultant Bio

Tamu Nolfo, Owner & Principal, Nolfo Consulting, Inc.

Tamu Nolfo, Ph.D., is a developmental psychologist and thought leader who brings expertise and lived experience in communities facing inequities to bear in her pursuit of social justice through institutional and systems change. For over twenty years, she has been engaged in power building efforts that synergize resources, facilitate equity-oriented decision making, and turn advocacy into outcomes. By prioritizing planning, research and evaluation practices that maximize stakeholder engagement, coalition building and strategic partnerships, Dr. Nolfo has confronted the social determinants of health at the community, state and national level. These efforts have been aided by her networks which include the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and American Leadership Forum, of which she is a senior fellow. Dr. Nolfo most recently served the California Department of Public Health's Office of Health Equity, where she was instrumental in developing and implementing the inaugural California Statewide Plan to Promote Health and Mental Health Equity. She is currently a lecturer at the University of California, Davis, for community and regional development in the Department of Human Ecology. In 2008 she was named by Sacramento Magazine as one of Sacramento's most influential "40 Under 40" and in 2010 was honored as a "Woman of Excellence" from the Sacramento Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. Dr. Nolfo earned a Ph.D. in human development from the University of California, Davis, and a B.A. in sociology with an emphasis on social inequality from the University of California, Santa Cruz.
Date: March 26, 2019
To: California Arts Council
From: Hilary Amnah
Arts Program Specialist
Re: FY18-19 Organizational Development Grant Panel Recommendations

Staff respectfully recommends that Council vote to fund 165 FY18-19 Organizational Development grant applications ranked “Fund” for a total of $798,792.

Program Overview:
The purpose of the Organizational Development (OD) grant is to fund consulting services to build arts and cultural organizations' capacity for sustainability and success. Examples of organizational development activities present in applications included consulting services for website development; social media and marketing; earned-income strategies; program evaluation; and diversity, equity, and inclusion training. Other common areas of organizational development that applicants sought consulting services for were strategic planning and audits.

There was an increase in applications from 158 in FY17-18 to 206 this grant cycle. This is a common first application for organizations applying for grants from the California Arts Council. It is a short application, a small grant amount, and does not require DataArts. Of the 206 applications that were submitted, two applications were deemed ineligible because they did not meet the basic organizational eligibility requirements and did not go to panel.

NOTE: In cases where ineligible expenses are listed in the budget such as per diem, food or staff salaries, those have been removed from the recommended award amount. Recommended grant awards adjusted to remove ineligible expenses are shown in red on the funding recommendation spreadsheet.

Panel Overview
Staff panels were opened to include all staff of the CAC for the following reasons: 1) to build community within our staff and break down silos based on job function, and 2) to include our new equity practices in our grant review panels, including panels that were reviewed by staff. Opening our staff panel pool to the entire organization created an opportunity for staff members in administrative, information technology, and Arts in Corrections roles to become more familiar with one of the major functions of our agency—the grant panel review process.
This process also allowed our review panels to benefit from the wide-ranging expertise our staff members hold, while drawing from a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds. The Organizational Development grant panels were intentionally adherent to our agency’s values of racial equity in panel reviews.

Professional Development and Organizational Development grant programs are reviewed by a staff panel in keeping with common practices among State Arts Agencies for small grants. It is a valuable experience for staff to understand the panel experience from the panelist’s perspective.

On February 7 and 8, CAC staff members Lariza Barcena, Jason Jong, and Debra Waltman convened to rank 102 applications. On February 14 and 15, CAC staff members Kala Kowtha, Laura Littlefield, and Mariana Moscoso convened to rank 102 applications. A total of 204 applications were reviewed and ranked “Fund” or “Not Fund.” A total request amount of $798,792 resulted from the applied ranked “Fund,” excluding food and staff salary expenses.

The panel reviewed the Professional Development applications according to the following review criteria and ranking system:

**Review Criteria:**

**Project Design and Implementation:**
- Strength of proposed activity indicating a realistic timeline, appropriate budget, clear objectives, and achievable outcomes.
- Relevance of the proposed activity to the organization’s development and sustainability.
- Strength of methods to measure success and document activities.

**Professional Merit:**
- Strength of the consultant’s skills, expertise, and experiences that relate to the proposed outcomes of the project.
- Degree to which the consultant demonstrates ability to successfully complete the proposed consulting service.
- Justification for using selected consultant.

**Organizational Impact:**
- Degree to which activity processes and goals are appropriate to the organization.
- Degree to which the activity demonstrates the long-term impact and benefits of the activity on the organization.

**Ranking System:**
- Fund: Strongly meets all of the review criteria
- Not Fund: Does not meet the majority of the review criteria in a significant manner or proposal is ineligible

The 165 applications that were ranked “Fund” clearly articulated a timeline of consulting activities with well-defined objectives, included a professional consultant with expertise relevant to the proposed activity, and made a clear case for how the consulting activity would increase organizational capacity.
Some of the applications that were ranked “Not Fund” did not meet the review criteria in a significant manner because the consulting activity was unclear, or the selected consultant did not demonstrate experience in the area of consulting proposed. Some of the proposals included activities that were not appropriate for the grant category, including external programming activities that did not meet the goals of organizational development. Other reasons for ranking applications “Not Fund” were ineligible activities such as ongoing consulting or fundraising.

Staff Panelists:

Lariza Barcena joined the CAC as the Administrative Analyst in August 2017. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Global Studies from UCLA, and an A.A. Degree in Language Studies from American River College. Lariza is a Sacramento-based performer with background work in community event planning, social media, and cultural anthropology. As a dancer, she has performed and toured across the United States. She has performed at Sacramento Fashion Week, at NBA games as one of the leaders of Boogie Monstarz (a hip-hop dance crew founded by members of the Jabbawockeez), and NFL games with the Art Life team of performance painter David Garibaldi. She curates a blog that highlights local restaurants, events, and ethnic foods. Having been born and raised in Milan, Italy to Filipino immigrant parents, the arts were an essential outlet for understanding herself and her experience. Her mission is to promote intercultural understanding with arts and cuisine as her mediums.

Jason Jong is an Arts Program Specialist with the California Arts Council, managing the Cultural Pathways, Local Impact, and Veterans in the Arts grant programs. He supports the Arts and Accessibility grant program in partnership with the National Arts and Disability Center and serves as the CAC’s accessibility coordinator. He has previously served as staff to the City of Oakland, Cultural Funding Program, Oakland Fund for Children and Youth; chair and member of the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission; member of the Oakland Museum of California’s Asian Pacific Advisory Council; and staff and consultant to the Oakland Asian Cultural Center.

Kala Kowtha has four years of experience working in the Biotechnology field and over eight years of experience in Information Technology including programming, database management, IT management, and systems analysis. During her work in the Biotech industry and allied fields, Kala acquired a renewed interest in computers. She was able to assimilate her two interests—Biotechnology and Bioinformatics—and found her ultimate niche in the Information Technology side of her work. Kala has a bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology from the University of Bombay, and a master’s degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology from the University of Oklahoma.

Laura Littlefield serves as the Interim Arts in Corrections Program Analyst with the California Arts Council. Prior to her work with the CAC, she worked for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, a local arts agency, first as a Grants Program Assistant and for 10 years as the Arts Education Program Assistant. Prior to her work in arts administration, Laura worked as a HeadStart preschool teacher, where she developed and implemented arts education strategies.
to support school readiness. Laura has a B.A. in Sociology and a B.A. in Studio Art, both from Humboldt State University.

**Mariana Moscoso** (pronouns: they/them/theirs) identifies as a genderqueer artist dedicated to an intersectional, racial equity framework in all aspects of their life. This framework deeply informs their work as an Interim Arts in Corrections (AIC) Program Manager at the California Arts Council. Mariana speaks several languages and holds a master’s degree in Art History from the University of California, Davis with an emphasis on Gender Studies. In their free time, they enjoy making art with their daughter, writing poetry, reading history books, and is involved in grassroots organizing in the areas of environmental justice, indigenous rights, and transformative justice.

**Debra Waltman** is the Director of Administrative Services for the California Arts Council. She oversees the agency’s budget, accounting, procurement, contracts, human resources, office management and facilities and grant compliance. After 20 years of working in Administration/Operations, she has fully honed her super power: bringing order to chaos by installing an infrastructure of resources for staff. She also excels at engaging employees in their work and supporting staff to be their best selves in and outside of the office. She also serves as the President of the Board of Directors for Girls Rock Sacramento, a Sacramento based nonprofit engaged in social justice work through music education. In her off time, she makes jewelry, reads and hikes.
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26 March 2019
Chair’s Report from Nashormeh Lindo

“Our task, regarding Creativity, is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible. No one can do more.”--Lois Malaguzzi

“Creativity takes Courage.”--Henri Matisse

Greetings Fellow Council Members:

As I write this report, I am reflecting on several things. Today is March 14th, Pi day and it, once again, reminds me of the critical connection between Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. The creative and innovative thinking of some ancient artist/mathematician conceived of a formula to calculate the area of a circle. Circles are all around us in Nature and in Art. Pi appears all through modern science and is used in everything from supercomputers, to cell phone technology. The concept is a good example of how creativity can be applied to both Science and Art. It seems clear to me and is the reason I am adamantly in support of S.T.E.A.M. education instead of the less inclusive S.T.E.M. idea. I am hopeful that the CAC can get behind supporting this idea and campaigning for the support of the prominent importance of the arts in our educational system. According to a recent ArtsEdSearch report on the impact of the arts on education- “the arts cultivate young imaginations and facilitate success in school, enhancing student’s academic achievement in multiple subject areas. The arts provide the critical thinking, communications and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st century work force.” Or, as a young student musician said recently, “S.T.E.A.M. puts the heat in S.T.E.M.!”

Speaking of young people, we just completed the 14th annual Poetry Out Loud State finals at the beginning of the week. Once again, this event was a beautiful, inspiring example of what potential the upcoming generation has to offer the world. California has the largest Poetry Out Loud event in the country. We had a diverse group of 52 high school county champions who made the commitment to memorize three poems and perform them publicly. This takes a lot of heart and passion. Every time I have experienced this phenomenal event, I come away feeling a little more hopeful and encouraged for the future. One of the things that strikes me each year is the camaraderie and support the children give to each other. Even though they are competing with one another for the big prize, they applaud and high five each other as they perform. This year’s winner, Lily Bogas, of Marin County was a delightful, humble young woman, who kept saying, “There must be some mistake!” Thanks to the judges, who, as usual had a very hard job in deciding who was the best, because the participants all brought something special to the contest. It’s hard choosing between diamonds and pearls. I encourage every Council member to attend this event at least once. As usual, our wonderful CAC staff did an amazing job working with these young people and pulling off this event. I loved the group poem about “Pizza.” The
addition this year of Poetry Ourselves, offering an opportunity to present an original poem really
rounded out the experience and was an additional opportunity to give the young people a real voice in
the process. I am also grateful to all the members of the legislature who came out to support their
youngest constituents. Dana Gioia, was wonderful as usual, and we are especially thankful to him for
his support and continued participation.

Another thing that is on my mind is last weekend’s tragic death of a young man, Victor McElhaney. I
mention him here, partly because I heard about his untimely death as I was preparing to go to
Sacramento for the Poetry Out Loud event; and partly because we knew Victor. He was a young actor
who played the role of Reuben in a Berkeley Repertory Theater production of August Wilson’s “Joe
Turner’s Come and Gone” that my husband directed several years ago. He was also a musician and
was studying Music in Los Angeles. When I arrived at the Capitol, I mentioned it to staff, because some
of them were familiar with his mother, Oakland City Council member Lynette Gibson-McElhaney who
had spear-headed the Oakland campaign to apply for our Cultural Districts program two years ago. I
also mentioned him to Dana Gioia, because Victor was a student at USC, where Dana teaches. He’d
heard about the incident, but when he returned, he emailed me and said that he realized Victor had
been one of his students in his Poetry course last year. He said of him, that he was a “bright and
engaged young man” who in a large lecture class, was one of his “go-to students” whom he could
always ask a question about his response to a poem or a passage and give a smart, candid answer.”
Yet another artist and fine young man lost to senseless violence. Victor’s mother said that he called his
music medicine and believed that music had the power to heal humanity. This makes the work we are
doing to advance the arts all the more urgent, in my mind.

While thinking philosophically, I also want to address an idea that I have been working on with the CAC
Equity committee, which is the recommendation to the Council for a statement regarding Racial Equity
in all our practices. We have been working on this for quite some time. It is an on-going and difficult
endeavor. There are all kinds of references and examples of statements addressing the “elephant in
America’s room,” the conversation about race. I believe the arts hold one of the main keys to unlocking
the path to this conversation, to real action and ultimately, to a truly equitable society. In fact, it is critical
that we adopt an equity focus to galvanize the Council and Agency staff around this framework in order
to move this work forward. Given the history, the current national discourse and cultural landscape, we
believe it is imperative that we address this issue in our new Strategic Visioning/Plan. Several arts
organizations have released statements detailing their commitment to racial equity in the arts. They
acknowledge that there are systems in place that have historically granted unequal privilege and
access to the arts for some and that certain values, policies, practices and funding have been unfairly
and unequally distributed. For example: Grantmakers in the Arts has made racial equity a primary
focus for the organization. They are committed to addressing institutional racism and structural
inequities in grantmaking. An excerpt from their statement of purpose, detailing its commitment to racial
equity in arts philanthropy says:

“Social inequities continue to be reflected in the funding practices of private philanthropy and
public funders in the arts, Therefore, in order to more equitably support African,
Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American (ALAANA) communities, arts organizations and artists,
funders should take explicit actions to structurally change funding behaviors and norms.”
There is also an acknowledgement that this work is an ongoing process. According to a report by the Putnam Consulting Group on the “Road to Achieving Equity,” advancing Equity is a journey, not a destination. It is difficult, messy work. The challenge is to understand what racial equity looks like, how it is measured and how to be intentional in addressing the effects of racism on the communities we serve and how looking at all our processes through a racial equity lens can begin to change this dynamic. So, this is an ongoing conversation for us. We are working diligently on presenting this to Council to consider, not only as a strategy, but also as a philosophical stance, moving forward.

Speaking of Equity, in a similar spirit of providing access to a more diverse constituency, with the Fellowship for Emerging Arts Leaders of Color, I recently met with David Mayeri, whom I first met when I was appointed to the CAC. He runs the Berkeley Music Group at the UC Theater, a Performing Arts venue in Berkeley, which he renovated several years ago. They present a wide array of musical and spoken word talent. What I found particularly interesting is the Education program they have created called the Concert Career Pathways Program, which teaches young people, ages 17-25 the technical, business and creative aspects of concert production. They collaborate with local nonprofits that support underserved youth and young adults and provide workshops, paid internships and job opportunities for those youth living in the community. I thought this was a brilliant idea. So often, our focus is on the performance, and little thought is given to how it is successfully presented. It is both timely and practical.

I also attended the opening of a show at Creativity Explored, an organization that gives artists with developmental disabilities the means to create and share their work with the community, celebrating the power of art to change lives. The show curated by Mildred Howard is called *Five and Two Others*. This group show includes five of the artists from Creativity Explored’s program and two professional artists, Oliver Jackson and John Moore. I also attended an artist’s talk at the Oakland Museum of California by Ms. Howard when the installation of her piece, *TAP: Investigation of Memory*.

This brings me to the last thing I want to mention that is on my mind, and that is direct Fellowship/Grants to Individual Artists. I have raised the issue of direct grants to individual artists to do their own work since I have been a part of the CAC. As an artist, I truly believe in the healing and transformative power of art. The California Arts Council supports several programs that provide artistic activities for school children, individuals facing incarceration, veterans, people with disabilities, etc. I advocated for these important projects to be more artist driven a few years ago. Recently, the Council itself voted on establishing an innovative grant program that addresses two large areas of concern-Art and Health and Art and Technology. These programs are of great importance and help address our goals and ideas regarding the intersection of art, education, equity and social justice. However, we do not fund the art practice of individual artists. The very thing that makes one an artist is the actual product of an artist’s creative practice. The painting, poetry, the screenplays, novels, dance, music, set and costume design, acting, filmmaking, etc. are all the things that make a practicing artist an Artist. Providing opportunities for artists to work with children in the schools, in health or corrections settings is wonderful and much needed exposure and experiences. It’s great the artists can share in the creative process and encourage others. But, at some point artists need the time and resources to do what they are endowed with the talent to do—that is to make their own art. It is my hope that we can begin the process of finding a way to provide direct fellowships/grants to individual artists again. It’s one of the things artists say to me all the time.
Finally, we are still in a holding pattern as far as new gubernatorial appointed Council Members to fill the vacancies and a new State Poet Laureate. We have a bill up for consideration concerning a California State Youth Poet Laureate, which would be an exciting addition to our programs. Our Strategic Visioning Consultants and Cultural Districts Evaluators are all on the job as we move forward into what is developing into a creative, exciting and productive year for the California Arts Council.

Peace,

Nashormeh Lindo

“Look closely at the Present you are constructing; it should resemble the Future you are Dreaming.” -Alice Walker

"I have found that only through the Arts can we simultaneously express our individuality and [our] connectivity." --Nalalia Macias
March 26, 2019

Director's Report from Anne Bown-Crawford

The CAC is committed to a collaborative approach to our work, moving across sectors whenever possible. This reflects priorities in our strategic plan. Funding grant programs that support the intersection of art and technology through the Council's upcoming Innovation Grants is one such example, which is why we are so pleased to be physically in the midst of such an intersection for this March Council meeting held at Hacker Lab, a makerspace in Sacramento. Combining arts and technology encourages creative strategies, technical competencies, and innovation. Whether we are discussing STEAM education or mixing the high technology of programming, digital media production, laser cutting, and 3D printing with the traditional tech artmaking and design such as woodworking, metal casting, and drawing, we are discussing creative problem-solving.

The priorities that organize my work during this fairly brief time since the Council's January meeting still center around the concepts of continuity and innovation.

- **Partnerships:** We are deepening and developing our interagency relationships, understanding that it is critical to engage with the field where they are. I believe there is strength and potential for collective impact through partnership. This is especially true as I look for ways to deepen our engagement in critical conversations around the economic impact of our creative sector, disaster preparedness and response, and community resiliency.
- **Resources and sustainability:** We are grateful to the Governor’s proposal to add $10 million dollars to our ongoing budget. Making informed decisions regarding how to best utilize this budget increase is of primary importance and will sit at the center of the evaluation and strategic planning process we are undertaking.
- **Assessment:** I believe that in order to move forward effectively we need to look carefully at what we have done. The most dynamic, impactful work is often iterative work—and authentic iteration demands careful observation and reflection.

Below are highlights of some recent agency activities:

**Budget Hearings**
We have been called to participate in budget hearings in response to the Governor’s proposed increase to our budget: Senate budget subcommittee #4, April 4 and the Assembly budget subcommittee #4, March 26. Staff and I have worked carefully to prepare for these hearings. I value the nature of this preparation, working with the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office, responding to questions that allow us to reinforce our priorities and our mission as we hopefully move into a future healthier than we have been in a very long time.

**Grant Review Panels**
We are deep in panel season with the adjudication of more than 1,700 applications submitted this grant cycle. Panels are taking place every week here in Sacramento, staffed by our amazing programs team.
The pool of panelists the Council approved is expert and diverse, moving much closer to our goal of having the best representation possible of experts from the field from all regions of the state. The Council will vote on the bulk of this year’s panel recommendations on May 22. This will be a packed agenda with ten different grant programs presented by our programs staff and panel representatives.

**Youth Poet Laureate legislation**
Impressed with hearing the voices of county Youth Poets Laureate in the gathering of poets organized by our recent past State Poet Laureate Dana Gioia and through our Poetry Out Loud program, we were inspired to pursue the establishment of a California Youth Poet Laureate. This idea has been wonderfully supported, and the California Youth Poet Laureate bill, authored by Senator Stern with co-authors Senator Allen and Senator Hertzberg, was created. It is Senate Bill 748 and will be heard in the beginning of April, after it has been assigned by the Senate Rules Committee.

**New Council Pilot Programs**
- **Fellowships for Emerging Arts Leaders of Color:** The application for the Administering Organization for the pilot fellowship program is in development and is expected to open for applicants by early May. Panel recommendations for the Administering Organization grant will come to Council in September.
- **Innovation Grants:** Guidelines for this pilot program are in development and will be presented to Council for discussion and vote in June.

**Strategic Framework**
We are thrilled to have kicked off the work with our consultant, Tamu Nolfo. All staff are participating in a work session with Dr. Nolfo this month. A detailed update on the Strategic Framework project can be found in the Strategic Planning Committee memo.

**Program Evaluation**
The CAC prioritizes evaluation in order to develop tools for long-term growth and innovation of our grant programs to reach all communities, including those that are underrepresented, to effectively steward state funds. Our agency is undergoing a comprehensive evaluation of our entire program portfolio, reflecting a commitment to sustainable and evidence-based grantmaking. The program evaluation will include all program design and outcomes and our grant/contracting operations. The evaluation will enable us to ensure that our programs reflect tenets of current and future Council priorities, program guidelines, and new strategic framework, as well as the needs of our communities. We are seeking an overarching organizational evaluation design that assesses the effectiveness of our programs and that will generate methodology (templates, tools) that can be adapted and applied to specific grant programs and initiatives in a long-term, sustainable manner. The Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure a consultant is in development now. We anticipate beginning evaluation activities in late summer.

**Disaster Preparedness and Response**
- **Statewide Emergency Preparedness Training for Arts Communities:** Staff is developing a project to deploy a statewide workshop series on emergency preparedness that could be utilized by arts communities in all 58 counties, in partnership with the National Coalition for Arts’ Preparedness and Emergency Response.
- **California Office of Emergency Services:** In the context of response, we are in conversation with Cal OES to help the community of Paradise develop a healing response to the recent fire disaster through the artwork of muralist Shane Grammer and photographer Terrence Duffy. We are currently assessing the next steps in conversation with both artists and our State-Local Partner directors in Butte and Shasta counties, as well as responding to the interests of OES and the possible private funders they expect to bring to the conversation. It is possible that this...
could serve as a prototype for developing a more formalized approach for the arts acting as second responders in the face of disaster.

**Arts in Corrections**

- **Current RFP:** We recently released a new Request for Proposals (RFP) aimed at increasing the number and variety of arts workshop offerings within our program that serves all 35 state correctional facilities. We’re seeking organizations with experience providing instruction in visual, performing, literary, cultural, folk & traditional arts who want to help create positive spaces of safety and well-being inside our state’s correctional facilities to apply for this RFP, due on April 8. Led by our Interim AIC Program Manager, Mariana Moscoso, and Deputy Director Ayanna Kiburi, we are undergoing a conscious effort to simplify the submission process and increase access, cultural competency, equity, and inclusion among interested organizations. The new RFP includes plain-language templated forms, instructions, a video tutorial, and a webinar to help walk organizations through the elements of their proposal. These new tools help make it easier for small, grassroots or volunteer-based organizations, or any organization unfamiliar with the state RFP process to provide arts programming by becoming a potential Arts in Corrections coordinating organization.

- **Upcoming UCLA Conference:** Our Arts in Corrections program is teaming up with UCLA to present an outreach opportunity at Connecting Art and the Law for Liberation (CALL). CALL is the first annual art and law conference of its type hosted by UCLA School of Law’s Prison Law and Policy Program, Criminal Justice Program, and the Prison Education Program at UCLA. This is a “CALL” to action to end mass incarceration by sharing innovative, cutting-edge collaborations at the intersection of art and law, and by uniting communities through various art mediums while simultaneously developing and disseminating new advocacy strategies. The 2019 conference will take place in Los Angeles at UCLA and local correctional facilities as possible, on April 12, 13 and 14.

**Poetry Out Loud**

This year’s POL State Finals took place on March 10 & 11 in Sacramento. We had a record number of counties participating: 52! More than 47 state legislators and legislative staff joined us in the Senate Chamber to honor their local county champions. The Council was represented by Chair Lindo and Vice Chair Baza, and by Councilmember Louise McGuinness who served as a judge. Lily Bogas of Tamalpais High School in Marin County is California's 2019 Poetry Out Loud state champion. Penny DellaPelle, a sophomore at San Luis Obispo High School in San Luis Obispo County, was runner-up, and Jackson Dean, a senior at Palm Valley School and repeat Riverside County champion, took third place. Sonoma County champion Zoya Ahmed took first place in the newly added creative writing contest portion of the program, Poetry Ourselves. Included in the Poetry Out Loud contest on the national level since 2016, this year marks the first time California offered students the chance to submit original written works at the state level. Ahmed, a 16-year-old sophomore from Maria Carrillo High School in Sonoma County, delivered a rousing recitation of her original poem, "A Concerto of Spice." County champions Ceiba Cummings of Yreka High School in Siskiyou County and Georgia Schreiner of Villanova Preparatory School in Ventura County tied as runners-up for their original works, "I was Your world" and "Alphabet Soup."

**Creative Economy**

- **Otis Report:** The 2019 Otis Report on the Creative Economy was launched in Los Angeles on February 1. I was pleased to moderate the keynote panel at the launch event. The Report is part of an ongoing research project, first commissioned in 2007, to better understand the size, growth, structure, and character of the creative economy in California and in Los Angeles County. We are pleased to be able to help fund the report so it can be used across sectors, from the need for robust arts education for all our students to the development of the Film and
Television Tax Credit Program in California. In California, the creative industries support 2.6 million jobs, $227.8 billion in labor income, and $604.9 billion in annual output. In total, both the direct employment generated by the state’s creative industries and the indirect employment they create through multiplier effects comprise 15.4% of California’s total employment.

- **Creative Economy Hearing:** We anticipate being able to have a hearing this spring before the Joint Committee on the Arts to present the importance of arts education in the context of nurturing California’s creative economy. The Otis Report will be featured prominently. Further updates will be provided as details are confirmed by the Joint Committee.

**Public Art**
The CAC has a leadership role for the public art panel for the new State buildings under construction close to the Capitol Mall, per the state’s Art in Public Buildings Code. As the lead from CAC for this project I recently attended an extensive meeting with the design-builders, DGS, and the art consultants, Dyson & Womack. We met to further the discussion on possible locations for the art and to interface with the Architects of Record and the builders directly. During that meeting we confirmed and validated the process, scope, and coordination strategies with the design-build teams. The art panel will next review recommended art location sites for the New Natural Resources Headquarters and O Street Building (Human Resources) projects at the end of March. Concurrently, the art panel will begin reviewing draft art plans for both projects that detail the commissioning approach, project timelines, commission budgets, program goals, and Request for Qualification (RFQ) documents. The art panel will meet on April 26 to finalize art plans and open RFQs for both projects.

**Interagency Collaborations**
- **California Cultural Cabinet:** With the retirement of the longstanding Cultural Cabinet coordinator from the California State Archives, we have taken on the coordinating leadership role for the Governor’s Cultural Cabinet, setting quarterly meetings and coordinating communications for the Cabinet. The California Cultural Cabinet is a collective of state agencies and organizations collaborating to promote and preserve the place of culture at the center of California’s identity. Members include: California Arts Council, California Historical Society, California Humanities, California Native American Heritage Commission, California State Archives, California State Library, California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation, The California Museum, and Visit California. Among various priorities, we are looking for effective points of collective impact around disaster response and the protection of cultural assets with the California Cultural Cabinet.

- **Cultural Resources Climate Change Task Force:** Our agency has been invited to serve on the Cultural Resources Climate Change Task Force, led by the State Office of Historic Preservation at the direction of the Governor’s Office. The Task Force has been charged with developing an overall strategy for non-traditional ways to address cultural resources before they suffer irreversible effects of climate change; understanding the scope of climate change impacts to cultural resources; and finding means to integrate climate change into the management of cultural resources.

- **California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls:** We met recently with the leadership staff of the CCSWG and were pleased to learn about the intersection of our work in supporting women and girls in STEAM careers, and of our similarities and possible collaboration points as state Councils/Commissions. We’re pleased to have their Executive Director and Policy Director join us for this Council meeting to tell us more about the work of their commission. We hope to continue to bring guest speakers from various agencies in to support the Council in learning more about other appointed bodies and agencies within state government.

- **Governor’s Tribal Advisor:** We are discussing with the Governor’s Tribal Advisor the possibility of collaborating on developing a convening of California Native American Artists. We
hope to soon proceed with the first step of convening a planning group of stakeholders from the community in order to listen and to support the co-creation of goals and a format for a potential future statewide convening.

- **Department of Public Health:** We are exploring where the best starting place is for collaborative projects in California communities. At the heart of our planning is discussion around how art and culture can be effective in supporting healthy individuals (disease management, mental health, creative expression for disabled individuals, etc.) and populations (healthy communities through creative placemaking, increasing health screening adherence, disease prevention, violence prevention, etc.) and exploring effective touch points.

**Executive Director’s Participation in Field Convenings**

- **Irvine New California Arts Forum:** At the invitation of Irvine Foundation, I attended their 2019 arts grantee forum in Orange County in February that focused on challenges faced by organizations that are midway in long-term journeys toward inclusive arts engagement transformation. The forum explored three cross-connecting sustainability hurdles that arts organizations are confronting: funding engagement; deepening organization-wide ownership of engagement; and shaping strategies for diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

- **Riverside Arts Now:** On March 6, I presented at a convening exploring how creative learning is preparing Riverside students to work, live and thrive in the 21st century. This countywide event featured exciting progress being made to nurture creativity, innovation and critical thinking in Riverside schools. This event was part of the Arts Now Campaign, launched by CAC Statewide Network grantee the California Alliance for Arts Education, which shines a light on exemplary districts and counties that are working to improve the quality of student education in and through the arts.

**Looking Forward**

In evaluating where appropriate intersections and partnerships lie for the CAC and what type of investments are most appropriate for California’s landscape of the contemporary challenges we are facing in our communities, I am increasingly asking how our grantmaking can address social determinants of health and mental health, including:

- Poverty (**provide visibility to issues of poverty/low-income, creating beauty and hope amidst poverty and blight**)
- Food Security and Nutrition (**art and nutrition education classes**)
- Housing (**arts and cultural strategies in community development**)
- Art and Communication (**storytelling for improved health screening behavior**)
- Art and Healthy Environments (**incorporating environment in creativity, art-based solutions to climate change**)
- Art and Healing (**artists and second responders in healing communities**)

I am excited to build on conversations I am having across the state about a wide range of possibilities—from artists’ residencies in public health settings, to expanding veterans arts programming, to raising awareness of how a robust creative education for all students is one of the best ways to support a healthy economy.

And at the same time, I ask, how can we do this work with grace, how can this work bring joy, and how can we foster inclusiveness and resiliency in all we do?
To:       CAC Council  
From:   Equity Committee: Nashormeh Lindo and Kathy Gallegos  
Date: March 26, 2019  
Re:   Draft Equity Statement  

The Equity Committee has been working to develop a draft Equity statement at the request of the Council. This draft statement is based on our review of many other state and local arts agencies. We have provided the draft to the strategic planning consultant who will assist us in finalizing this statement.

Recommended Draft Equity Statement

The California Arts Council (CAC) has a strong commitment to advancing race equity and acknowledges that structural racism is one of the most pressing issues of our time. Recognizing that historically marginalized communities of color suffer barriers of inclusion in the arts such as funding, job opportunities, policy making, exhibitions and performances, the CAC is committed to racial equity in our policy development and grantmaking.

Building a race equity culture requires intention and effort. The CAC demonstrates a commitment to actively pursue racial equity and dismantle structural racism through:

- Policies that reflect democratic principles of equity and fairness.
- Programs intended to reduce and/or reverse discrimination and adverse effects on communities of color.
- Fair disbursement of resources.
- Program requirements that build capacity within state arts organizations to reach historically marginalized communities of color.
- Regular evaluation of the impact of our policymaking on grantees.
To: Council Members  
From: Legislative Committee, Nashormeh Lindo and Juan Devis  
Date: March 26, 2019  
Re: Legislative Update

Budget Committee Hearing

On March 15, 2019, the California Arts Council answered questions in a joint budget sub #4 pre-hearing. This budget pre-hearing was scheduled in response to Governor Gavin Newsom’s proposal of an ongoing $10 million increase from the general fund to the California Arts Council in his January version of the budget. Today, on March 26th, we are scheduled for the Assembly budget sub #4 hearing at 1:30 pm in the state capitol, room 447. Members of this budget committee include the following:

Sub 4 State Administration
Committee Members

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<th>District</th>
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<td>Jim Cooper (Chair)</td>
<td>Dem - 09</td>
<td>Contact Assembly Member Jim Cooper</td>
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<td>Capitol Office, Room 6025</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0009; (916) 319-2009</td>
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<td>David Chiu</td>
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<td>Tom Lackey</td>
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<td>Philip Y. Ting, Dem, Alternate</td>
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<td>Contact Assembly Member Philip Y. Ting</td>
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Youth Poet Laureate Bill Proposal

The California Youth Poet Laureate bill, authored by Senator Stern, with co-authors Senator Allen and Hertzberg, is Senate Bill 748. SB 748 will be heard in the beginning of April, after it has been assigned by the Senate Rules Committee. Support letters are being requested at this time. Attached is the Fact Sheet.

Poetry Out Loud

The third round of Poetry Out Loud 2019 was held in the Senate Chamber on March 11, 2019. This successful event welcomed 47 Assemblypersons and Senators and their staff, who presented each county champion with certificates of recognition. Council member Louise McGuinness was a judge during all rounds, and council Chair and Vice Chair, Nashorneneh Lindo and Larry Baza, respectively, provided great support to the 52 county champions and members of the legislature throughout this event as well. Photographs of students and legislative representatives have been shared with the corresponding legislative offices.
**SB 748 – YOUTH POET LAUREATE**

**AUTHOR: SENATOR HENRY STERN**

*(UPDATED MARCH 7, 2019)*

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**SUMMARY**

SB 748 establishes the ongoing position of California Youth Poet Laureate, designated for a poet ages 13-19 to be appointed for a term of two years. The bill furthers cultural awareness and appreciation, and literacy, complements the current position of Poet Laureate, and expands the relevancy of the state’s appointed poetry positions to California’s next generation.

**BACKGROUND**

Since 1915, California has recognized the importance of poetry by appointing a Poet Laureate. Governor Gray Davis codified the position in 2001, adjusting the appointment to a two-year term, rather than a life term. The Poet Laureate travels the state advocating the importance of literacy, education, and creativity through poetry. The California Arts Council assists in increasing access to the arts for Californians who live or work in areas where the arts are scarce, nonexistent, or vulnerable.

Poetry provides a mechanism by which people can understand experiences and perspectives that they do not share. According to the National Endowment for the Arts, poetry readership in the U.S. has risen by 76 percent in the past five years. The new audience is young, diverse, and non-academic. Poetry in education has also experienced a renaissance through the national recitation contest, Poetry Out Loud, administered statewide by the California Arts Council for the past 14 consecutive years.

Additionally, poetry has become a means of political and personal expression in the younger generation in California, engaging nonprofit literary organizations to cultivate spoken word as a means of involving and embracing adolescents in their communities. SB 748 would allow teens that already write poetry to be recognized for their accomplishments and skills, further encouraging investment and development in the arts and opening innovative and unique venues for speaking and listening opportunities for youth statewide.

The position of Youth Poet Laureate will assist in outreach to California schools, while working in partnership with the California Arts Council. Having representation from their own age demographic will increase the likelihood of teens exploring poetry, which will increase literacy and creativity. Writing and performing poetry is universal and relevant to teens, including ELLs who can learn about or read poetry in their primary language, helping them bridge their worlds.

**THE PROBLEM**

There is considerable competition amongst adult applicants for the Poet Laureate, who apply with full careers and a lifetime of experiences behind them. This is not an environment in which an adolescent may reasonably compete. SB 748 will create opportunity and accessibility for all youth, including ELLs who may face barriers due to developing English proficiency.

**THIS BILL**

SB 748 creates a counterpart to the California Poet Laureate that is specifically designated for adolescents, ages 13-19. The creation of a Youth Poet Laureate will increase poetry awareness which will provide an avenue for teens to improve literacy, grammar, vocabulary, public engagement, and creative expression. By expanding investment in poetry within the adolescent community there will be an increased awareness and sensitivity to other experiences, cultures, and beliefs.
SUPPORT

- California Arts Council (*sponsor*)
Cultural writer and Latino art advocate Ed Fuentes dies at 59

By SUHAUNA HUSSAIN
FEB 09, 2019 | 9:50 AM

Cultural journalist Ed Fuentes poses in front of artwork by Colette Miller at the 2016 Los Angeles Art Show. (Isabel Rojas-Williams / Courtesy)

Wherever Ed Fuentes went, whether it was an art gallery or community meeting, he had his camera hanging around his neck.
Both Fuentes and his camera became fixtures of the downtown Los Angeles Arts District, as he meticulously and lovingly documented the neighborhood and its transformation in photos and writing on his blog, View From a Loft, starting in 2006.
Fuentes, who emerged as a voice and staunch advocate for the local arts scene, died Thursday morning at the age of 59 after suffering a heart attack, according to his father Edward Fuentes Sr.
In addition to his role as a local historian, Fuentes was a muralist, blogger, poet, photographer, graphic designer and comedian. Larry Harnisch described Fuentes in an LA Times column as a “human cyclone” because he wore so many hats.

"He really had his finger on the pulse of the art community downtown. There are so few voices like Ed’s out there," said Maria Margarita Lopez, who met Fuentes while he was doing graphic design work at Variety more than 20 years ago.

A big guy with a scruffy beard, Fuentes was frequently described as “larger than life,” both in the physical sense and in personality, said cultural producer and photographer Melissa Richardson Banks. He was outgoing, funny, knowledgeable and passionate, said art curator Isabel Rojas-Williams.

And he could talk for hours. He would always play the devil's advocate, pushing conversations in unexpected ways, said Alex Poli, an L.A. artist also known as Man One.

Lopez agreed.

"If you gave him a microphone, he probably wouldn't give it back to you,” she said.

Born and raised in Riverside, Fuentes lived there until the late ’90s. Fuentes was always artistic growing up; he won a graphic design contest in his hometown paper, the Press-Enterprise, when he was just 6 years old, his father said.

When he moved to L.A., he worked almost feverishly to document downtown public art and buildings. "You never know what's going to be gone next," Fuentes told Harnisch in 2013.

Fuentes’ championing of Latino artists helped fill a void in the Los Angeles art scene and his death is a searing loss, Lopez said.

“He used to tell me he was people's worst nightmare because he was a Chicano who knew how to write," Alex Poli said.
Fuentes’ writing brought much-needed visibility to historic murals, Rojas-Williams said, and to her own advocacy for an ordinance removing a ban on public murals that the city eventually passed 2013.

People should look to Latino street artists, such as those in East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights, who use "paint as a protest tool, a practice that came from the barrios, where villagers rose up with brushes for pitchforks and paint as torches," Fuentes wrote in 2017. Underserved communities have “always spoken up by writing on the walls of their neighborhoods, demanding for better education and shared civic liberties."

Murals, he wrote, redefined what art can be for a city, but work to recognize art from neglected communities is ongoing.

Although Fuentes left Los Angeles in 2012 to earn his MFA at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, he continued to write for LA's KCET and dove into documenting similar movements in Las Vegas. Fuentes chronicled downtown Las Vegas murals and street art on another blog, Paint This Desert which he launched in 2013 with money from a Warhol Foundation grant.

In Las Vegas, Fuentes branched out into teaching and curating art exhibits. He was planning to open “Homeboy Fauxism,” an exhibit on an imaginary Chicano political artist from the early ‘80s ("Bunko") and his influence on contemporary (also fictional) street art at Riverside Art Museum this month. Fuentes saw what he loved about L.A. echoed in Las Vegas, and told Joe Schoenmann of Las Vegas Weekly that public art helps a city become a community.

“I watched it happen in downtown L.A.,” Fuentes said, according to the Las Vegas Weekly. “Street art and murals help people feel engaged in the streets. And that gray line of what is legal and illegal will never be agreed upon, but the art attracts people and allows them to experience a city as a city.”

Fuentes is survived by his mother, Dora Fuentes, and father, Edward Fuentes and brother Ron Fuentes.
Suhauna Hussain is a reporter at the Los Angeles Times. Before joining The Times in 2018, she wrote for the Tampa Bay Times, the Center for Public Integrity, the East Bay Express, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and independent student-run newspaper, the Daily Californian. Suhauna was raised in L.A. and graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in political economy.

Original Link: https://www.latimes.com/local/obituaries/la-me-ln-fuentes-20190208-story.html
Luke Perry, star of 'Beverly Hills 90210' and 'Riverdale,' dead at 52

By Lisa Respers France, CNN

Luke Perry, who played the beloved Dylan McKay on the hit coming-of-age series "Beverly Hills 90210," has died.

Perry, 52, died Monday after suffering a massive stroke, his publicist Arnold Robinson told CNN.

"He was surrounded by his children Jack and Sophie, fiancé Wendy Madison Bauer, ex-wife Minnie Sharp, mother Ann Bennett, step-father Steve Bennett, brother Tom Perry, sister Amy Coder, and other close family and friends. The family appreciates the outpouring of support and prayers that have been extended to Luke from around the world, and respectfully request privacy in this time of great mourning. No further details will be released at this time," a statement from Robinson read.

Born Coy Luther Perry III in Mansfield, Ohio, and raised in the small community of
Fredericktown, Perry moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting soon after graduating from high school.

There he worked a series of odd jobs as he tried to break into the business.

The Big Apple beckoned in 1988 after he scored an appearance as Ned Bates on the soap opera "Loving," which required him to move to New York City.

In 2013 during an appearance on the radio show "Sway in the Morning," Perry said it took him 256 auditions before he scored his first gig.

"I just kept thinking, 'You know, I just walked out of a room full of fools,'" Perry said of how he maintained the confidence to keep going. "Those people have no idea."

The same year as his "Loving" appearance, Perry landed a role on another soap, this time portraying Kenny on "Another World."

But it was his role as seemingly bad boy Dylan McKay on Fox's "Beverly Hills 90210" in 1990 which shot Perry into the atmosphere.

The series was both wildly popular and also criticized because of its willingness to take on topics such as teens being sexually active.

"We have done some shows that dealt with pretty some touchy topics and people weren't altogether happy with how we dealt with it," Perry said during an appearance on "The Arsenio Hall Show" in the 1990s. "I thought we handled it pretty intelligently and we were willing to answer the questions we brought up."

Perry's character was so popular among fans that in 1991 an expected crowd of 2,000 at a Florida mall turned into a stampede of 10,000 when he appeared at an autograph signing.

Several people were hospitalized and the mall was forced to shut its doors after the chaos.

The actor famously left the show in Season 6, seeking to break away from the Dylan character, but returned in Season 9.

Perry also appeared on the big screen with roles in films including "Good Intentions," "Red Wing" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," which later became a hit television series.
He made his Broadway debut in 2002 as Brad in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

But it was the small screen that showed the actor the most love, with roles on "The Incredible Hulk," "Jeremiah," "Oz," "Windfall" and "John from Cincinnati."

More recently, Perry took on the role as Archie Andrews' father Fred in the hit CW drama "Riverdale," based on the characters from the Archie comics.


They divorced a decade later.

Perry is in director Quentin Tarantino's upcoming film "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," which set for release in July.

*CNN's Chloe Melas contributed to this report.*
USC will hold a memorial Tuesday for Victor McElhaney, a senior who studied music, in the Ronald Tutor Campus Center Ballroom from 6 to 8:30 p.m., the University announced Thursday. McElhaney died March 10 in Los Angeles due to a gunshot wound to his head, the Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office confirmed. He was 21.

“Victor was a son of Oakland,” his mother, Oakland
District 3 Councilwoman Lynette Gibson McElhaney, wrote in a statement to the Daily Trojan. "He was a musician who drew his inspiration from the beat, soul, and sound of the Town and he belonged in every nook and cranny of Oakland."

McElhaney was approached by three to four suspects around 12:24 a.m. Sunday during a possible failed robbery attempt at Maple Ave. and Adams Blvd., the Los Angeles Police Department said. One of the suspects shot McElhaney, and the suspects fled the scene in a vehicle. McElhaney was taken to a hospital by the Los Angeles Fire Department shortly thereafter, where he died later that morning, according to the LAPD.

An LAPD investigation into the matter is ongoing, and no arrests have been made as of Sunday.

Interim President Wanda Austin sent a memo informing the USC community of McElhaney’s death. Austin offered her condolences to his friends and family in her email.

“He believed in the power of music to touch lives, to heal and to bring hope,” the email read.

McElhaney was part of the Jazz Studies program at the Thornton School of Music, and he was interested in the relationship between music and social and political movements, Austin said. He was also dedicated to community service — he was a mentor for young musicians and taught at the Oakland Public Conversatory of Music, the email read.

Peter Erskine, the director of Drumset Studies at Thornton and one of McElhaney’s instructors, said
McElhaney was an active participant at the school in an email statement to the *Daily Trojan*.

“Victor was already playing at a professional level when he came to USC,” Erskine said. “His audition was a welcome breath of fresh air — he had the touch, the feel and the musical understanding of a seasoned jazz musician … Victor was always the first to volunteer to play in any group class.”

Thornton jazz studies adjunct instructor Kathleen Grace said McElhaney was her student for a year.

“He was full to the brim with musical ideas that he wanted to share,” Grace said in a Thornton statement. “There was a spark in his eyes at all times, and an openness to all the world had to teach him.”

Thornton also set up a website for students and other USC community members to submit photos and remembrances of McElhaney ahead of the memorial event.

McElhaney transferred to USC from California State University, East Bay in 2017. Beyond music, he was also involved at the Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs at USC, Austin’s email read.

CBSCA sent a statement to its mailing list about McElhaney’s death Sunday afternoon.

“Whether it was through his music or through his conversation, he challenged others and himself to think outside of the box,” the CBSCA email read.

As a councilwoman, McElhaney’s mother has actively fought gun violence in Oakland. She helped pass laws like Measure Z, a public safety initiative that funded prevention strategies against gun violence, according to
the City of Oakland’s website.

“We are beginning a new chapter in this reoccurring circle of violence,” she wrote in her statement. “And it will take all of us together to make it through this tragedy.”

The Berkeley organization Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency created a GoFundMe fundraising page on behalf of McElhaney’s family on Monday, according to the GoFundMe site. The organization is a non profit that fights homelessness and community violence in the East Bay.

As of March 17, the page has raised over $67,000, surpassing its original $30,000 fundraising goal and its $50,000 stretch goal. Donations included a $10,000 contribution from the Oakland Athletics, according to the GoFundMe page.

“Funds will be used to assist the McElhaney Family with final arrangements and a memorial concert in honor of Victor McElhaney and the families of victims of gun violence,” the GoFundMe page said.

Austin wrote in her email that students will be informed of memorial plans as information becomes available.